

**California Rice Commission
East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition
San Joaquin County & Delta Water Quality Coalition
Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition
Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition
Westlands Water District
California Citrus Mutual
California Cotton Ginners Association
California Cotton Growers Association
California Grape and Tree Fruit League
Western Growers Association**

May 19, 2006

Mr. Robert Schneider
Chair, Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

RE: Comments on the Proposed Renewal of the Irrigated Lands Program (ILP)

Dear Chairman Schneider:

Agriculture's commitment to identifying and correcting water quality impairments on our farms and ranches has been a top priority for the last three years. We have worked tirelessly with wetlands managers and many others to implement the Irrigated Lands Program (ILP). This unprecedented effort involved agriculture spending thousands of hours of time, organizing tens of thousands of farmers and committing millions of dollars to the success of the program. We believe the best way to ensure continued improvement in agricultural water quality is through the proposed five-year extension of the ILP currently under consideration by the Board.

We commend the Board and staff for the many meetings and long hours spent drafting the ILP that proposes the renewal of the program. At times it seemed that any agreement was unlikely. However, the commitment to an inclusive process and the determination of all participants to find solutions yielded a fair and balanced proposal. Most significantly, the renewal will continue to improve agricultural water quality throughout the Central Valley.

We are providing a number of technical comments that we believe will further enhance the proposed five-year renewal of the ILP. Notwithstanding, the undersigned groups fully support the approval of the proposed five-year ILP renewal and note our sincere appreciation of the process undertaken in its development.

Sincerely yours,



Tim Johnson
California Rice Commission




Parry Klassen
East San Joaquin
Water Quality Coalition



David Guy
Sacramento Valley Water
Coalition



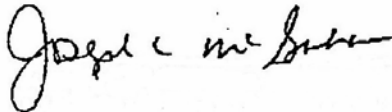
John Meek
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Delta Water Quality



David Orth
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Quality Coalition



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Westlands Water District Water



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Westside San Joaquin River
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Barry Bedwell
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Erin Field
Western Growers Association

cc: CALEPA
Tam Doduc, Chair, SWRCB
Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer